

A NEW SPECIES OF TAXILEJEUNEA

FROM VENEZUELA

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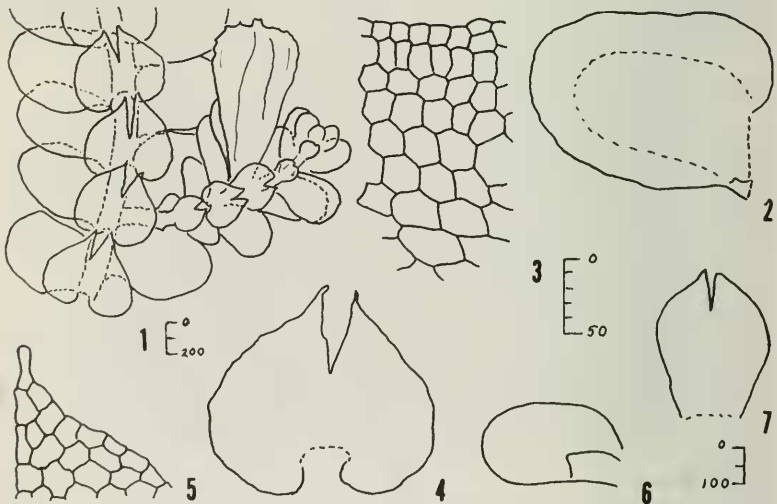
Three recent collections by Dr. Julian Steyermark from the State of Yaracuy in Venezuela represent a distinctive and previously undescribed species of Taxilejeunea. The generic assignment is made mostly on the basis of the large cordate underleaves and the lateral perianths with single innovations. This generic position is strengthened by the occasional presence of a second perianth on the innovations. The species is one of the few forms in the genus having broadly rounded leaf tips and is distinct among these by the marked vitta of enlarged central cells in the leaves surrounded by smaller cells. The near lack of lobuli combined with the oblong sharply spreading leaves gives the plant a superficial resemblance to some tropical american species of Calypogeia such as C. parallelogramma (Spruce) Steph.

Taxilejeunea steyermarkii H. Robinson, sp. nov.

Plantae autoicae pusilla flavo-virides, vittis foliorum flavescentiores. Caulis veteriores profuse ramosi ex 7 cellularum corticalium et 17-18 medullarium seriebus compositus. Folia caulina contigua recte patula plano-disticha oblonga ca. 700 μ longa et 500 μ lata base superiore subcordata apice late rotundata margins vix crenulata; cellulae interiores in vittis latis ovaes vel oblongae 40-50 μ longae et 20-25 μ latae, parietibus subdistincte minute noduliferis, trigonis minutis distinctis; cellulae versus marginem subabrupte differentes rotundatae vel subquadratae marginales ca. 15 μ diam. submarginales ca. 20 μ diam., parietibus inornatis; parietes exteriores omnes asperulae?. Amphigastria late ovata vel suborbiculata caule 3-4-plo latiora plerumque 450-600 μ longa et lata base late cordata ad medium bifida, lobis valde acuminatis, cellulis basilaribus ad 35 μ diam., mediis oblongis vel subrotundatis 15-25 μ latis et 25-30 μ longis, cellulis versus marginem sensim subrotundatis vel subquadratis 15-20 μ diam., cellulis apicalibus cylindraceutis, trigonis in partibus mediis minutis, parietes exteriores non asperulae. Perianthia in ramulis terminalia, innovationibus unicis raro denuo

fertilibus. Folia floralis spathulata ca. 400μ longa et 200μ lata apice rotundata, cellulis ad cellulam foliorum caulinarum similibus, lobulis oblongis ca. 150μ longis et 70μ latis breviter acutis; bracteola obovata $350-400\mu$ longa ad $1/3$ bifida, lobis breviter acuminatis, cellulis irregularibus $15-35\mu$ longis et $12-25\mu$ latis versus marginem minimis. Perianthia obpyriformia ca. 400μ longa et 200μ lata aliquantum complanata inferne nuda superne in carinis paucis denticulata. Androecia in ramulis brevibus terminalia.

Type: VENEZUELA: Yaracuy: Selva nublada, El Ampato, 7-11 km al norte de Salom, Distrito Nirgua. Altura: 1200-1300 m, on living branch by stream. Mar. 22, 1975. Steyermark & Carreno Espinoza 111484a (Holotype US; isotype VEN). Paratypes: VENEZUELA: Yaracuy: same data as holotype except epiphyllous. Steyermark & Carreno Espinoza 111470a (US, VEN); Yaracuy: Cabeceras de la Quebrada Amparo, selva nublada virgen en la cumbre, El Amparo hacia Candelaria, a 7-9 km al norte de Salom. altura 1220-1250 m, epiphyte. Nov. 30, 1974. Steyermark & Carreno Espinoza 111178a (US, VEN).



Figures 1-7. Taxilejeunea steyermarkii H. Robinson. 1. Part of plant with female branch. 2. Cauline leaf. 3. Cells of median upper sector of leaf. 4. Underleaf. 5. Cells of lobe apex. 6. Female floral leaf with lobule. 7. Female bracteole.